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Agenda item 24
(GC(42)/20)

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

Report of the General Committee

1. At its third meeting, on 24 September 1998, the General Committee examined the credentials of delegates to the session, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure.

2. At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee mentioned Rules 27, 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure, and read out the following aspects of Rule 27 regarding credentials for the General Conference:

(a) Credentials designate the delegate of a Member State to a given session of the General Conference;

(b) They are submitted to the Director General; and

(c) They are issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

3. The Chairman of the Committee then announced that credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure had been submitted to the Director General for the delegates of the following 101 Members:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland

India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Latvia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia

4. The Chairman of the Committee announced further that various official communications in the form of telefax copies of original credentials, notes or letters from Permanent Missions or other authorities received by the Secretariat with respect to the status of the following 15 Members do not constitute formal credentials under rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure:

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Democratic Republic of Congo
Guatemala
Italy
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Liberia
Mali
Qatar
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Zimbabwe

5. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out then that the Committee had received a document (GC(42)/22) submitted by Kuwait on behalf of the Arab States which are participating in the 42nd regular session of the General Conference, containing a statement of delegations of Arab States concerning their reservations about the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the Conference. The Chairman also pointed out that the Committee had also received a document (GC(42)/27) submitted by Israel which set out its position with regard to the reservations expressed by Kuwait on behalf of the Arab States participating in the Conference.

6. An extensive discussion took place on the above-mentioned documents in which statements were made by the representatives of Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole speaking as the representative of Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Philippines. These statements are fully reflected in the records of the Committee's meeting (GC(42)/GEN/OR.3).

7. Further, the Chairman of the Committee proposed that, in accordance with past practice, those delegates for whom proper credentials had not been received should, nevertheless, be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that they would submit credentials in due form as soon as possible, preferably before the end of the current session of the Conference.

8. Finally, the Chairman read the following draft of a resolution:

"Examination of delegates' credentials

The General Conference

Accepts the report by the General Committee on its examination of the credentials of delegates to the Conference's forty-second regular session which is set forth in document GC(42)/41".

9. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8.